



# **CORNERSTONE "MAGAZINE"**

**June 2020**

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*From Amanda...*



Dear Friends,

And so the lockdown continues. There are, of course, signs of restrictions beginning to relax but for many of us, life is still unsettling. Positively, over this period, there has more time than usual for reflection and spiritual growth – I do hope you are making the most of the resources available, either online, or enjoying the programming on TV or the radio. More books are being read, and more telephone conversations taking place than ever before. More people are also showing an interest in God, so we need to be prepared to share the hope that is ours!

And what better season for it than Pentecost - the time when we celebrate as a Church the new start, the new empowerment and the new friendship that was ours when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon God's people. He is still being poured out today – in the lives of any who seek Him. One of His many blessings to is equip believers in their ministry – to share the good news of Jesus far and wide. And one way believers have always shared in fellowship together is through small groups, which is certainly not a new concept! In fact, we see in Acts 2 that the first-century church relied on them as *"Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house"* (Acts 2:46). We see such groups throughout church history, indeed the Methodist movement was founded upon them. Many churches today still see small groups as integral to discipleship.

We will be playing catch-up at Cornerstone, for we have tried to get small groups off the ground before with little success. We're now at a turning point, where I believe one major shift must take place for the church to not only survive but thrive in what will be the "new normal." Gone, at least for the near future, will be congregational worship gatherings on a Sunday morning, at one location. The time has come to consider carefully what this means for us as a church moving forwards. Far from being an optional add-on, I feel in the months ahead that small groups will be the mainstay of our discipleship and fellowship. It's fascinating to see how the church is being brought back to what she was designed to be through this process.

So now is the time to take advantage of meeting up! The Government has said that up to six people can meet outdoors, with social distancing, and I strongly encourage you to make the most of it! Meet up with your brothers and sisters in Christ regularly. I cannot urge you enough to be sensible, and take the necessary precautions, wear a mask if that helps with your confidence, make sure you sit well apart, and wash hands after meeting, but invite some friends from church to sit in your garden, or arrange to meet in the local green spaces. Share how you are feeling, and pray together. When you are a bit more confident, look at the Bible together – remember this is not a chance to show how much or how little you know about God’s Word but an opportunity to share in God’s goodness and bless each other.

If you are still shielding, and feel you don’t want to leave home just yet, you can meet virtually – through platforms such as Zoom or Facetime or Skype.

If any of you do start meeting, please let me know so I can keep a record of the groups that are being formed. Later down the road, we will look into equipping you with study material and prayer aids but for now, just reclaim those friendships and enjoy being with people that you have missed. Let Jesus be part of your together times.

Small groups are the history—and the future—of the church. They will be key to keeping Cornerstone healthy, if we embrace the opportunity and let the breath of His Spirit blow through us.

*Christ's blessings,*

*Rev Amanda*



## **From Amanda – the future**

Dear Friends,

This is a short note from me. I am sorry that I cannot share this with you through the normal processes, but this lockdown has limited us in so many ways. It is the time of year when the Methodist stationing process gets underway, and as I am in the 6<sup>th</sup> year of a 7 year appointment, this has involved me this year. After much thought, prayer and discernment, I need to inform you that I will not be seeking an extension to my appointment with you. That means I will be leaving next Summer to seek a fresh ministry elsewhere. I would like you to know that my decision was not an easy one to reach, but due to certain decisions recently made within the Central Sussex United Area and my own desire to be closer to family, I feel now is the right time to make a move. We have been on quite a journey together, and I feel very blessed to have shared in life and ministry with you. We still have a year left together, which may not be the easiest, as we emerge from the current pandemic into a new way of being – but we have been up for challenges before! Let's make this year one of hope and joy, as we forge forwards, standing upon Christ our Cornerstone.

Yours, with every blessing,

Amanda

When Sir Harry Lauder's only son was killed in WW1, he said to a friend: "When a man comes to a thing like this, there are just three ways out of it – there is drink; there is despair; and there is God. By His grace, the last is for me!"

1 Peter 5 v 7

Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares for you.

May the peace of God encircle you

May the peace of Christ enfold you

May the peace of the Spirit encompass you this day and forever more.

## ***Durer – Praying Hands***



Franz Durer lived in Germany between 1471 and 1528. He and his brother, Albrecht, longed to be artists, but his family was extremely poor. His brother offered to work as a labourer but Franz considered Albrecht to be the better artist and so he took the labourer's position. For years Albrecht studied under the finest masters while Franz laboured to pay the costs. At last the day came when the roles were to be reversed but there was one major problem – Franz's hands were too gnarled and roughened to paint.

In tears, Albrecht drew his brother Franz's work-worn hands. Done with ink on blue paper, the drawing is simple – it shows his two hands in the act of prayer. He completed it as a sketch for a painted altarpiece, which was subsequently destroyed by a fire in 1729. In the modern era, *Praying Hands* has become an international symbol of piety and is surely one of the most reproduced images to date.

It is a picture to speak to our hearts of our Lord Jesus Christ, who Himself took on the role of a servant.

This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody.

There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it.

Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job.

Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it.

It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

The story may be confusing but the message is clear: no one took responsibility so nothing got accomplished.

## David Dunn-Wilson

It is with sadness that I share the news that David passed away in the early hours of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 after a short spell in hospital. David's health had been particularly poor in these last couple of years, and he had fought several illnesses very bravely. In the last year he had several hospital admissions and has amazed all with his strength and resilience. Paul Tabraham spoke with Elizabeth immediately thereafter and she is bearing up - she said a beautiful phrase about David 'sleeping all the way to heaven', and that his passing was very peaceful. It seems as if he has barely been awake during this most recent hospital admission.

David will be much-missed, having had an extraordinary ministry involving many years overseas, academic posts, a ministry of writing and research, preaching and leading.

## Books of the Bible puzzle

There are sixteen books of the bible hidden in the paragraph below. Can you find them all?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain luke kept people looking so hard for facts, and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a job. We want it to be a most fascinating little moment for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes the preacher to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how you will compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible in this paragraph.

If you need them the answers are on the last page.

My new **social distancing** shoes have arrived!



## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

<b>Charles (Dick) Turpin</b>	<b>2nd June 1989</b>
<b>Hilda Edwards</b>	<b>2nd June 2006</b>
<b>Audrey Albon</b>	<b>15th June 2010</b>
<b>Phyllis Ansell</b>	<b>22nd June 2002</b>
<b>Emily Brown</b>	<b>26th June 2003</b>
<b>Iseabel Ralston</b>	<b>28th June 1994</b>
<b>Jean Leng</b>	<b>28th June 1998</b>
<b>John Henderson</b>	<b>June 1996</b>
<b>Ann Reid</b>	<b>11th July 1997</b>
<b>Helen Pelling</b>	<b>July 2016</b>
<b>Pat Fagg</b>	<b>21st July 2017</b>

**We remember them with gratitude and give thanks to God for them – and for all those who worked and worshipped with us.**

To err is human  
To forgive takes restraint  
To forget you forgave  
Is the mark of a saint  
(Suzanne Douglass)

It is true that we are weak and sick and ugly and quarrelsome but if that is all we ever were, we would millenniums ago have disappeared from the face of the earth.  
(John Steinbeck)

## HENRY SMART

In the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century a goodly company of organists served the churches of London. I have written notes about men like Stainer, Gauntlett and Monk earlier. Henry Smart was another member of the tribe.

Smart was born and brought up in London. In 1831, Blackburn Parish Church appointed him, aged 18, as their organist. After serving there for five years, he came back to the capital. His first London church was St Giles without Cripplegate - an old church which has been rebuilt several times. It stands just below the modern Barbican development. Smart's last church, which he served from 1864 until his death in 1879 was St Pancras New Church, on the Euston Road. It is a fine building, Grade 1 listed, in the ancient Greek Ionic style. Smart became blind about the time of that appointment, but the portrait that we have of him in Wikipedia seems to show a cheerful countenance - "content" is perhaps the word, in both its French and English meanings.

Not far from Henry Smart's St Pancras was a Presbyterian church, founded for Scots who had come south. This was Regent Square Church, today named "Lumen". The Presbyterians built it in 1827, in the Gothic style, a smaller imitation of York Minster. Why the Scots chose to copy York and not, say, St George's, Edinburgh, is a mystery. Regent Square Church became "the cathedral of Presbyterianism in London". The buildings were destroyed in the 1939-45 war, and rebuilt thereafter with a "modern" church. The adjoining offices became the headquarters of the United Reformed Church, 86, Tavistock Place.

In the 1860s, the English Presbyterians decided to produce a hymn book of their own. One of the key decisions was "whom shall we ask to edit the music?" I am guessing, but I fancy their minister at Regent Square suggesting a neighbour, the organist of the new St Pancras church, one Henry Smart. So Henry Smart became the musical editor of *Psalms and Hymns for Divine Worship*, published in London, 1867. The Presbyterians of the time must have been satisfied, because ten years later the Scottish Presbyterians got him to do the same for them, and the result was *The United Presbyterian Psalter*.

Every hymn book includes a sizeable input from its musical editor. Of all the stuff that Smart composed, at least six of his tunes were for *Psalms and Hymns*. We still have many in our books today, but not so many as before. If we count his tunes in the books of our two denominations published over the last hundred years we find Smart falling in popularity:

Publication date	tunes by Smart
1916	17
1933	13
1951	15
1983	12
1991	7
2011	6

That is not really surprising. Most music has a "sell by" date, and only the best survives from one generation to the next. Time is an efficient filter. One of the characteristics of Smart's tunes is their polygamous nature. Each one gets married to a wide variety of hymns, apparently at the whim of the compilers of each book. I have found only one tune that has stayed faithful to one hymn down the years, and that is MISERICORDIA, a tune that Smart wrote in 1875 for *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. He composed it for Charlotte Elliott's hymn, *Just as I am, without one plea*, and it has stuck.

Smart called one of his tunes REGENT SQUARE. Routley praised it as "perhaps the best tune of one of the soundest of nineteenth-century composers". In the 1867 book it was set for "*Bright with all his crowns of glory*, a hymn which I am unable to trace, but which seems to have set the "glory" tone for many editorial decisions. Several 20<sup>th</sup> century books partner it with *Praise my soul the King of heaven*, and amongst other liaisons there have been

*O'er the gloomy hills of darkness...*

*To the name of our salvation...*

*Look ye saints the sight is glorious...*

*Light's abode, celestial Salem...*

*God of grace and god of glory...*

*Angels from the realms of glory....*

*Let us sing the King Messiah....*

We still sing some of these, but to other tunes.

In the books we use today at Cornerstone, REGENT SQUARE is set to two fine hymns

R&S 319 *Thanks to God whose word was spoken in the deed that made the earth* - a hymn written in 1954 by Reginald Brooks for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bible Society, and

StF 14, *Sing to him in whom creation found its shape and origin.* by Michael Hewlett.

The tune REGENT SQUARE opens, as many of Smart's tunes open, with the notes of the common chord. In this case, Smart has *me,doh,soh,me,doh`...*, giving us a fine springboard for a confident start. In line 5, Smart produces an exciting sequence - the second bar of the melody closely repeats the shape of the first, a tone higher. This fits perfectly with Brooks' repeated *God has spoken, God has spoken*.

We need to record that Regent Square Church, which in Smart's day had many hundreds of members - perhaps a thousand - is now down to 20. That is a common fate for many city centre churches, but nonetheless very sad.

I easily forget that Presbyterianism is part of Cornerstone. To sing REGENT SQUARE is a valuable reminder of that important element in our traditions.

## **FAIRTRADE / TRAIDCRAFT HOME DELIVERY SERVICE** (on a **'no contact'** basis).

The Home Delivery Service has been introduced to enable our Fairtrade/Traidcraft customers to obtain goods during the current lockdown. We intend that the service should be complementary to, rather than in competition with, the supermarkets, corner shops or other service providers and if you are able to obtain your Fairtrade/Traidcraft goods through those other outlets, then please continue to do so. The service is offered to customers living in the area, and there is no charge.

A current stock and prices list is on the enclosed pages – **bargain sale items and prices are shown in red**, so please do hurry before stocks are exhausted and prices go up. Everything is on a "first come, first served" basis.

To place an order please contact Teresa Lane, either by:-

a) Telephone on 01435 408947

or

b) Email on [teresa@john-lane.co.uk](mailto:teresa@john-lane.co.uk)

Deliveries will be made within 14 days of order if possible - Teresa will call to arrange a mutually suitable time and date for delivery. Payment on receipt would be appreciated – either cash or cheque made payable to Cornerstone Church Uckfield No 2 a/c.

The full range of products is shown at "traidcraftshop.co.uk", from greetings cards and fashion to home and beauty, although again some items may be out of stock. If you wish to request something from this 'catalogue' please identify it/them with your order to Teresa and they will be ordered. It may be that we will be ordering items to put into stock at the same time, thus qualifying for free delivery.

It will be greatly appreciated if you can support Conerstone and Traidcraft in this way, so **'Happy shopping!'**.

In prosperity our friends know us, in adversity we know our friends.  
(Churton Collins)

Laugh and the world laughs with you  
Weep and you weep alone  
For the sad old earth must borrow its mirth  
But has trouble enough of its own.  
(Ella Wheeler Wilcox)

## Charity Corner

It has been proposed that we have a space for a 'Charity Appeal' in each edition, and that everybody has the opportunity to put a particular case forward for a future edition.

Jeremy has put forward an appeal for the Leprosy Mission for this month, so please do feel free to send me (John Lane) your choice for a future 'slot'. As we only have twelve editions each year I may have to choose, but the chances are that it will be the "less known but no less worthwhile" that will be included, on the basis that the major charities are already well in the public eye.

**The Leprosy Mission (TLM)** will be fairly well known to many Christians, but perhaps the extent of their work isn't. The website is very good for anyone wanting to find out more and I am focusing on their immediate needs as our shared crisis impacts much harder on those with no financial reserves, existing health and society status problems and now have Covid 19 to face.

Working since the 1890's mainly in India, TLM have led the fight to control the spread of leprosy, to cure its effects and educate people so they do not see it as a reflection of past lives or how it can be transferred. This has involved hospitals, health centres, physiotherapy and mental health support as well as education for sufferers and those fearing leprosy near them.

TLM advise that more than half of all leprosy cases reported across the globe each year are in India so it's important to see what they report. On 25 March, the same week that a lockdown was implemented in the UK, a nationwide lockdown was imposed in India in a bid to contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Images of desperate migrant workers no longer able to work fleeing cities on foot for their native villages were soon beaming across the globe.

To date the number of coronavirus deaths reported in India remains relatively low, arguably because of the government's prompt lockdown strategy. Experts however warn that easing the restrictions too early could have catastrophic consequences, so the world's biggest lockdown on 1.3 billion people in India was extended by two weeks last weekend, but Covid is growing there and any help is badly needed.

Social distancing is often impossible. Marginalised communities have limited access to food, healthcare and water. This leads to malnutrition and poor sanitation, the perfect conditions for leprosy to thrive. It also creates an ideal environment for the transmission of the coronavirus. National Director of The Leprosy Mission, Peter Waddup, said: "If the coronavirus was left to sweep through India it would cause complete devastation.

“There are enormous pressures on our hospital budgets in India and these will increase as a result of COVID-19. We are raising emergency funds to keep hospitals running and to provide PPE in a bid to keep our amazing staff and patients safe during these unprecedented times.

“But tragically we are hearing from our colleagues and partners that hunger is the real threat in the communities we serve. “Knowing that a food shortage is added to the suffering that the people affected by leprosy I have met in India already face really breaks my heart. The lockdown imposed on the country has meant no work and minimal movement with no public transport.

“People affected by leprosy cannot even go out to beg on the streets to feed their families. Even this most desperate means of survival is taken from them. At the moment we have no option but to change the focus of our work from life-changing to life-saving.”

Leprosy Mission teams and partners have distributed emergency food rations to communities. They are also providing masks and essential messaging on the symptoms of COVID-19, the necessity to self-isolate and importance of social distancing where possible.

“We pray for the people we serve in leprosy-affected communities during the toughest times they are facing right now. It is our duty that we do everything humanly possible to keep them fed and well until this dreadful pandemic subsides.”

## **From Commitment for Life**

**Christian Aid** has released a comprehensive study examining the relationship between migration, gender and climate change in the Central American Dry Corridor (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua). Women are particularly vulnerable to the unfolding environmental crisis in Central America, but are also taking the lead in mitigating some of the effects.

Women in the region of El Rodeo, Honduras, have created a co-operative, communal plot where they sow maize and beans. They also created a seed bank that is able to sell seeds at a significantly lower price than the market.

Women also report that they have found indigenous seeds to be far more resilient to drought, such as black corn, bejuco beans, barco, chajan etc. These varieties have a shorter life cycle, and are more resistant to pests.

**Christian Aid**'s work in Central America is vital. Commitment for Life is pleased to be able to continue our support in the region at this time.

## Prayer

Loving God, though we may be separated in body, we are one in spirit; set apart, but drawn together to magnify your name.

Thank you for your grace in Jesus, helping us to live in the fullness of life that you desire for all.

May your will be done on earth as in heaven, helping us to turn from fear; forgive all debt, and set the prisoner free.

In the light of Christ's name, we pray. AMEN

The answer to the Books of the Bible puzzle:

I once made a **remark** about the hidden books of the Bible. A certain **luke** kept people **looking so** hard for **facts**, and for others it was a **revelation**. Some were in a **jam**, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the **truth** finally struck home to **numbers** of our readers. To others it was a **job**. We want it to be **a most** fascinating little moment for you. **Yes, there** will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require **judges** to help find them. I will quickly admit **it usually** takes the preacher to find one of them, and there will be loud **lamentations** when it is found. A little lady says **she brews** a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how you will com**pete**. **Relax** now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible in this paragraph.